



TRIPLE HOMICIDE MAY BE GANG-RELATED

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GANG MOTIVES EXPLORED IN NORTH RICHMOND TRIPLE-HOMICIDE

Slayings mark the town's deadliest shooting since late 1990s By Robert Salonga Contra Costa Times

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The broken glass and bullet holes left

on cars on Truman Street in North Richmond, Calif. are visible Friday May 14, 2010 after four men were shot late Thursday night, leaving three dead and one seriously injured. (Laura A. Oda/Staff)

and wounded another in what the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office is calling the unincorporated community's deadliest day in more than a decade. Investigators also are exploring whether the triple-homicide, which occurred about 9 p.m.

The broken glass and bullet holes left on cars on Truman Street in North Richmond, Calif. are... NORTH RICHMOND — Gang motives may have fueled a drive-by shooting that killed three men

Thursday in the 1700 block of Truman Street, is related to a shooting reported earlier that day in North Richmond.

The dead are Lawrence Gadlin, 23, of Berkeley; Gerald Jackson Jr., 34, of Richmond; and Tony Albert, 51, of North Richmond. A fourth man was wounded but has since been released from the hospital, said sheriff's Capt. Steve Warne.

The men, described as friends, were outdoors working on a vehicle when the occupants of a red minivan drove by and opened fire, Warne said. By the time deputies arrived at the scene, Albert and Gadlin were dead. Jackson was taken to the hospital but died a short time later.

Each man — including the survivor, who has not been named — was struck multiple times by at least two kinds of firearms. Investigators have not identified any suspects nor did they release any suspect descriptions.

Warne said his office also is determining wether the deadly shooting evolved from a shooting Thursday morning elsewhere in North Richmond that did not cause any injuries. He declined to release more details about that shooting.

He did say the killings might have been fueled by gang activity and that it remains unclear whether the victims were targeted, or whether it is the shooters or victims who have gang ties. Investigators are trying to answer the gang question in part to thwart future retaliation.

"We hope that the incident will not evolve," Warne said.

At the shooting scene Friday morning, several people gathered in front of a home but did not comment. Pieces of yellow crimescene tape were still affixed to a fence. The surrounding neighborhood is a mix of well-kept, new, mostly modest houses interspersed with rundown properties, some boarded. There also are a number of small apartment buildings in the area.

The community long prone to bloodshed has seen a recent lull in violent activity, Warne said, with the last homicide reported March 25. The last time this many people died in a single spate of violence in North Richmond involved a shooting that killed four people in the late 1990s, according to the Sheriff's Office.

"Any time three individuals die from one violent incident, it's significant," Warne said.

Anyone with information about Thursday night's shooting can call the Sheriff's Office at 925-646-2441.